GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:502
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
SPURIOUS DRUGS
ANANT GANGARAM GEETE;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RAJESH VERMA;RAM SINGH KASWAN;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious/out dated life saving drugs are being sold in most of the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have collected samples of the drugs by conducting raids on the chemists shops;

(d) if so, the number of such drugs detected during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regards;

(f) whether the Government have any plan to set up a permanent machinery to curb this menace; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) Yes, Sir. There are reports about medicines of questionable quality being available, faking the name of reputed brands.

(b) to (d) As per the feed back available from the State Licensing Authorities, 344 samples of spurious fake medicines were detected by conducting raids during the period 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. State-wise position is indicated in Annexure-I.

(e) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act,1940 and Rules, thereunder, State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of Drugs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment have been prescribed.

State Governments have been advised from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery and drug testing facilities and to keep strict surveillance over the inter- state movement of spurious drugs. Facilities of Central Government testing laboratories have also been made available to States for testing of drugs besides financial assistance provided to them to augment and strengthen their testing capabilities.

The State Drug Controllers have been advised to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs.

(a) Constitution reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should find representation.

(b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(c) Training to be provided to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of spurious counterfeit drugs.

(d) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(e) State Drugs Control Authorities to be cautious while approving licenses for drug products to ensure that `look- alike` products are not encouraged.

(f) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(g) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(h) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(i) To obtain cooperation of Pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.

(j) To collect Survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQUED) programme.

In addition, the following steps have been taken:

1. Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.

2. The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare.

(f) & (g) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July, 18, 2001 associating members from industry, trade, drug regulatory officials and public representative to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

Statement showing statewise Number of spurious Medicines Detected by State Licensing Authorities during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Annexure-I

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	Andhra Pradesh	41	7	10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Assam	NIL	NIL	6
4	Bihar	6	8	2
5	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL
6	Gujarat	1	14	1
7	Haryana	11	22	32
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	NIL	NIL+
9	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL	2	NIL
10	Karnataka	2	2	NIL
11	Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL+
12	Madhya Pradesh	NIL	2	NIL
13	Maharashtra	19	3	NA
14	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL+
15	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL
16	Mizoram	NIL	NIL	NIL+
17	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL
18	Orissa	NIL	NIL	2
19	Punjab	9	4	4+
20	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	NA
21	Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL
22	Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL	14
23	Tripura	NIL	NIL	NIL+
24	Uttar Pradesh	50	2	2+
25	West Bengal	15	12	12+
26	Pondicherry	NIL	NA	NIL
27	A & N Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL+
28	Chandigarh	NIL	NIL	NIL
29	Delhi	2	16	08
30	D & N Haveli	NIL	NIL	NA+
31	Daman & Diu	-	NIL	NIL
32	Lakshadweep	-	NIL	NIL+
TOTAL:		157	94	93

NA - Information not available.
+ - INFORMATION AS ON 31.3.99.